

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-02

/059 W

----- 077427

R 301003Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4036

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

:DIA WASHDC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT TH

SUBJECT: ANTI-THANOM RALLY

REF: BANGKOK 27090

1. NSCT SECRETARY GENERAL SUTHAM SAENGPRATHUM TOLD THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ANTI-THANOM RALLY HELD AT SANAM LUANG ON SEPTEMBER 29 THAT UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT COMES UP WITH A DEFINITIVE DECISION ON THANOM BY OCTOBER 2 THE ACTIVISTS WOULD TAKE "TOUGHER MEASURES". HE DID NOT ELABORATE BUT DID GO ON TO SAY THE ACTIVISTS WERE PLANNING TO HOLD ANOTHER RALLY AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY ON THAT DAY.

2. THE SEPTEMBER 29 RALLY WHICH ATTRACTED ABOUT 8 TO 10,000 PERSONS WAS A RATHER SEDATE VIOLENCE FREE AFFAIR. THE POLICE AND NSCT COOPERATED WELL IN KEEPING PEACE AND ORDER DURING THE SEVERN HOUR RALLY. A BOLLDY INCIDENT MAY HAVE BEEN AVERTED BY THE ARREST OF AN EX-VOCATIONAL STUDENT NEAR SUANAM LUANG

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A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE RALLY BEGAN. HE WAS

CARRYING TWO MILK CANS FULL OF TNT.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE STILL SEE VERY LITTLE EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT FOR THANOM RALLIES WHICH SNCT HAS PUT TOGETHER SO FAR HAVE ATTRACTED LITTLE INTEREST OUTSIDE OF STUDENT COMMUNITY. UNTIL CONSIDERABLY BROADER SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE INVOLVED IN ANTI-THANOM RALLIES THAN HERETOFORE, THE SENI GOVERNMENT IS NOT RPT NOT UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE TO ENSURE THANOM'S EARLY DEPARTURE FROM THAILAND. SEEMS CLEAR THAT PRIME MINISTER SENI WOULD DEARLY LOVE TO MAKE THANOM ISSUE "GO AWAY" SOMEHOW BUT THERE IS NO RPT NO SIGN OF RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER NOW IN SIGHT.
BURKE

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